

Money-Saving Opportunities:

Membership in MTSBA is also a gateway to participation in a number of valuable and money-saving programs including our Workers' Compensation Risk and Retention Group, Montana Unified School Trust Health Insurance Program (with rate increases substantially below industry trends), Montana Schools Unemployment Insurance Program (saving members approximately 25% compared to rates charged by the State of Montana), and the Montana Unified School Trust (MUST) health insurance program among other money-saving programs. In addition, MTSBA continually strives to help member districts identify cost-saving measures and efficiencies so that resources can be directed to teaching and learning.

Please contact us at any time with any questions or issues we can help address.

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Welcome to the Montana School Boards Association (MTSBA). We represent the interests of elected school boards governing K-12 public education throughout Montana and our membership encompasses virtually every school board in the state, from east to west, large to small and between. MTSBA has been a leader in public education advocacy since its inception in 1926. We provide training, advocacy, legal and policy services to Montana's public schools in pursuit of our core purpose:

"To maximize the potential of every child through school board leadership"

MTSBA is part of a nationwide federation of state school boards associations, organized through the National School Boards Association. NSBA and its federation members collectively represent over 95,000 dedicated local school board members. MTSBA represents the interests of over 1500 elected volunteer trustees throughout Montana and promotes and provides leadership opportunities focused on the needs of trustees.

MTSBA is governed by a Board of Directors made up of trustee representatives from across the state. We have 11 Directors from geographic districts, 7 Municipal Directors, a Director of the Indian School Board Caucus, and a MHSA Representative.

Local Control Under The Montana Constitution

Unlike many states, where the state takes the lead role in education, the ultimate responsibility for quality public education in Montana rests with the local school board. The Montana Constitution is unique in placing both supervision and control of public education in the school boards' hands. Article X, Section 8 of the Montana Constitution articulates this vision eloquently and directly:

School district trustees. The *supervision and control* of schools in each school district shall be vested in a board of trustees to be elected as provided by law.

As clearly enunciated in Montana's Constitution, the role of school boards in public education is pivotal.

MTSBA's Services

Professional Services:

The Association offers the best legal, personnel, policy, superintendent search, investment pools, insurance, and governmental relations services available in the state, and is improving and refining those services on a continual basis to save districts money and meet districts' present and evolving needs. In the complex world of local supervision and control of public education, it pays to have immediate access to seasoned advisors, which is one of the primary benefits provided by MTSBA membership.